



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 15, 2004

TWO V CORPS ENGINEER BATTALIONS GET NEW COMMANDERS IN TWO DAYS

By Dennis Johnson

130th Engineer Brigade Public Affairs Office

HANAU, Germany — Two engineer battalions from V Corps' 130th Engineer Brigade welcomed new commanders in ceremonies July 14 and 15.

Lt. Col. Shawn P. McGinley accepted command of the 54th Engineer Battalion from Lt. Col. Donald E. Jackson under sunny blue skies on Summerall Field at Warner Barracks in Bamberg, Germany July 14. With 130th Engineer Brigade Commander Col. Thomas Kula as reviewing officer, the colors were passed to the new battalion commander.

"Two years ago seems like only yesterday. I arrived in Bamberg full of dreams and expectations. I was ready and bursting at the seams with good ideas ...

As luck would have it, I was able to accomplish only a few objectives," said Jackson in his parting remarks, eliciting a round of laughter from the audience.



DENNIS JOHNSON

Lt. Col. Donald E. Jackson Jr. passes the flag of V Corps' 54th Engineer Battalion to the unit's new commander, Lt. Col. Shawn P. McGinley (second from right), during the battalion's change of command ceremony July 14 at Warner Barracks in Bamberg, Germany.

McGinley then addressed the Soldiers of his new command. "It is great to be back in Bamberg again. To the Soldiers of the 54th, I stand here today 100 percent committed to you and our future, and look forward to facing the challenges that await us together." McGinley comes to the 54th from a position as chief of engineer plans for Combined Joint Task Force 7 in Baghdad, Iraq. Jackson will be moving to Washington, D.C. where he will take an assignment in the Office of Engineers at the Pentagon.



DENNIS JOHNSON

Lt. Col. Paul L. Grosskruger, outgoing commander of V Corps' 94th Engineer Battalion, 130th Engineer Brigade (left), stands at attention alongside 130th Commander Col. Thomas Kula (center) and the 94th's incoming commander, Lt. Col. Alfred A. Pantano, at the battalion's change of command ceremony July 15.

On the next day, July 15, and under not-so-sunny skies, the command of the corps' 94th Engineer Battalion changed hands in Vilseck, Germany. Lt. Col. Paul L. Grosskruger passed his command to Lt. Col. Alfred A. Pantano Jr. in a soggy ceremony on the Vilseck High School football field. As a steady rain soaked troops and officers alike, Kula attended his third change of command in a week – beginning with his own July 9 – and helped the incoming and outgoing battalion commanders pass the 94th's colors.

Pantano arrived in Vilseck from Seckenheim, Germany where he was the U.S. Army Europe operations officer for the Operation Iraqi Freedom after-action report team. Outgoing commander Grosskruger is headed to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., where he'll serve as chief of staff at the U.S. Army Engineer School.

